

anterior part, then slightly tinged with rose-colour, whitish towards the end, but in the lower hind part there is a tuft of bright red feathers.

The type of this very distinct species was collected by the unfortunate Prince Ruspoli during his exploration of the region round Lake Rudolf. Although we do not know the exact locality where the specimen was collected, it has been supposed that it was near Lake Bissan Abaia or Abai, discovered by Ruspoli to the north-east of Lake Stephanie.

The first notice of this bird was given by Dr. Matschie (*l. c.*), who saw it in the Museum of Genoa, and published a description, probably from memory, as it is quite incorrect.

It is very strange that the bird has not been met with again by later travellers, and this circumstance has induced me to have a figure of this rare Touracou published in order to make it better known.

The locality Somali-land, attributed to this species by Dubois and Sharpe, does not seem to me exact, Abaia or Abai Lake being much more in the interior and forming part of the Abyssinian empire. In this region it appears that Baron von Erlanger carefully searched for the bird, but without success.

The type specimen, preserved in the Museum of Genoa, is still unique, so that *Turacus ruspolii* is perhaps the rarest species of the genus.

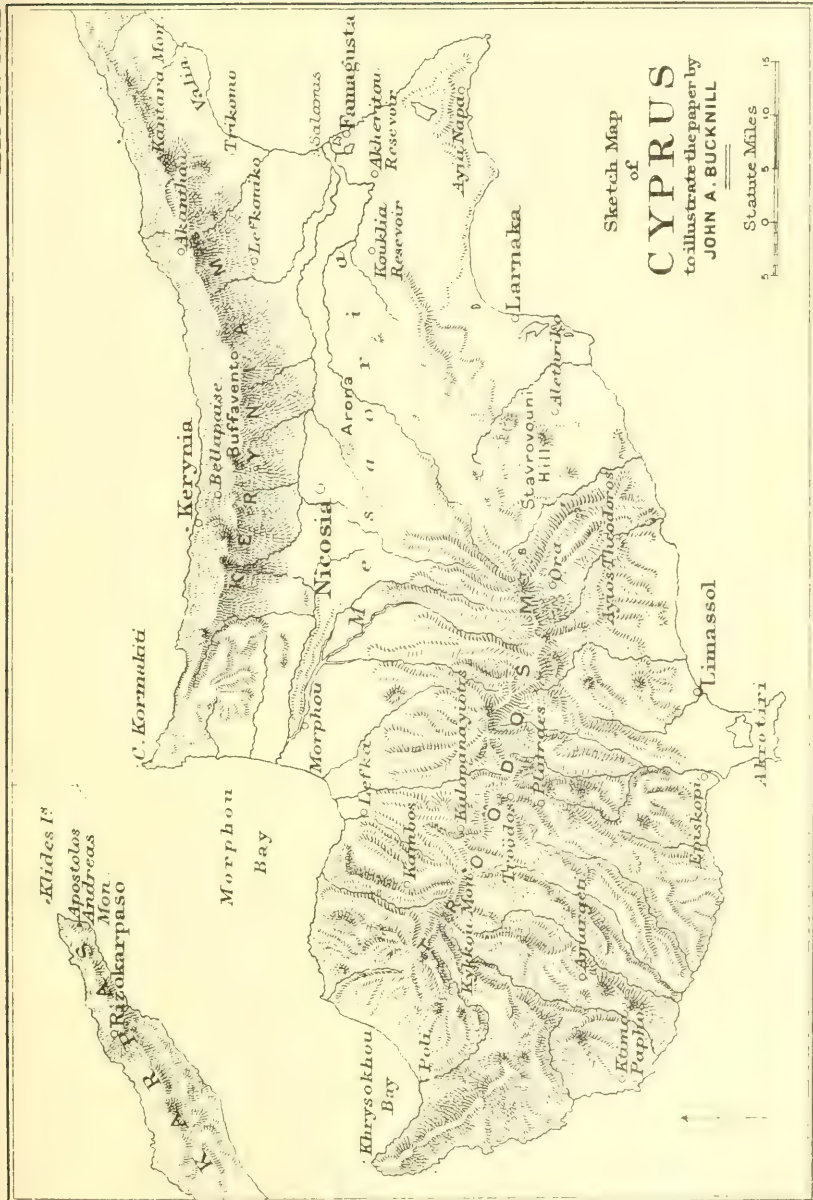
II.—*A Third* Contribution to the Ornithology of Cyprus.*

By JOHN A. BUCKNILL, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plate II.)

My official connection with the Island of Cyprus came to an end in July 1912, and I left this very charming and beautiful spot with very sincere regret. As a valedictory contribution to the literature of the local Avifauna I have

* First contribution: 'Ibis,' 1909, pp. 569-613; 'Ibis,' 1910, pp. 1-47, 385-435. Second contribution: 'Ibis,' 1911, pp. 632-656.



Sketch Map
of
CYPRUS
to illustrate the paper by
JOHN A. BUCKNILL

Statute Miles
0 5 10 15

Klides I.
Apostolos
Andreas
Mon.
Rizokarpaso

Morphou
Bay

Khrysokhou
Bay

Limassol

Akrotiri

Kerynia

Nicosia

Larnaka

CYPRUS

JOHN A. BUCKNILL

Statute Miles

0 5 10 15

put together the notes that I had collected since my last paper on the subject, which appeared in this Journal in October 1911.

I was away from the island from November 11th, 1911, to February 8th, 1912, but was informed that from the end of December the rains were extraordinarily heavy, flooding thousands of acres in the Famagusta district and doing much damage to the sprouting barley. Winter visitors were not numerous, owing, no doubt, to the mildness of the weather.

Thrushes and Blackbirds, Lapwing and Golden Plover were conspicuously few, but the Stock-Dove (never before satisfactorily recorded) occurred in some numbers.

The spring migration was heavy, and we obtained some new species, including the Icterine Warbler and Whiskered Tern. Spoonbills and Gull-billed Terns were also, to us, new arrivals.

Mr. Baxendale paid a second visit to the Klides Islands in April 1912, arriving on the islands on the 19th; the migration was in full swing and the long narrow promontory between Rizokarpaso and the monastery of Apostolos Andreas (which is at the point of the cape) was packed with crowds of birds: Red-backed, Masked, and Lesser Grey Shrikes in hundreds, the first-named predominating in numbers; Blackcap, Palestine and other Warblers, Wheatears of several species, Ortolan and Black-headed Buntings, Short-toed Larks, Cuckoos of both species, and many other varieties too numerous to mention.

He found the Lesser Peregrine breeding, the young birds being more advanced than they were on May 11th, 1911, the date of his previous visit; the Mediterranean Herring-Gull had also nested, apparently much earlier than in the previous year, whilst the Shags had young in all stages.

On the journey Mr. Baxendale obtained the Little Egret, Norfolk Plover, and Hen-Harrier, found the Common Swift, Rock-Dove, and Red-rumped Swallow nesting; saw the Golden Oriole and collected some interesting Wheatears and Warblers.

The decrease of the hare and the indigenous Game Birds,

which has been steadily taking place in Cyprus for a good many years, engaged my serious attention during my residence in the island. The causes are mainly the large increase in the number of guns carried by the peasantry and the good price obtainable for game in the markets. Although, under the old game laws, there existed reserved "areas" and "forests" in which no shooting was allowed nominally, there is no doubt that a great deal of illicit destruction of game took place in these localities.

After much consultation with the leading English, Greek, and Turkish sportsmen, I drafted a Bill which I introduced into the Legislative Council, and which with some modifications became Law on December 31st, 1911.

Under this Law *Game* includes Moufflon, Hares, Pheasants, Partridges, Francolin, Sand-Grouse, Quail, Bustards, Wild Swans, Wild Geese, Wild Duck of any kind, Woodcock, and Snipe.

Moufflon are prohibited from being hunted at all periods, except under special permission of His Excellency the High Commissioner.

Pheasants and Francolin are prohibited from being pursued at all until September 1st, 1916.

A close season for all Game is prescribed between the 15th of February and the 12th of August.

The taking of the eggs of Game Birds is entirely prohibited.

No Wild Birds of any kind may be taken between the 15th of February and the 12th of August, except Thrushes, Blackbirds, Starlings, Larks, Beccaficos, Bee-eaters, Doves, Pigeons, Jackdaws, Crows, Magpies, Ravens, Hawks, and Sparrows.

The following indigenous species are entirely protected at all seasons :—

Troglodytes cypriotis Bate.

Cinclus olympicus Madarász.

Saxicola morio cypriaca Hartert.

Parus cypriotes Dresser.

Certhia brachydactyla dorotheæ Hartert.

Loxia guillemardi Madarász.

Scops cyprius Madarász.

The eggs of all Wild Birds are protected entirely except those of Bee-eaters, Doves, Pigeons, Jackdaws, Crows, Magpies, Ravens, Hawks, and Sparrows.

Certain reservations of areas of land and forest are allowed to be made, within which no shooting is to be permitted.

These are the principal provisions of the Law, and I am glad to say that arrangements have been made this year by which the reserved areas will be patrolled and watched by properly appointed verderers in the pay of Government. A permit to obtain specimens for scientific purposes may be obtained from the High Commissioner.

The Law is not perfect, but it is an advance on any previous Law, and it is to be hoped will work well.

I should like to add a few words as to those subspecies of birds which have been described from time to time as indigenous to the island. I think there is not much fear of their extinction. I wish I could say the same of the Francolin. *Cinclus olympicus*, *Parus cypriotes*, *Loxia guillemardi*, *Certhia brachydactyla dorotheæ*, and *Garrulus glaszneri* are all safe enough in the great Troödos range: no one would waste a charge except on the first and the last, and there is so much rough country on these mountains that their survival is pretty sure.

Corone pallescens is a nuisance everywhere; *Galerita cristata cypriaca* is probably the commonest bird in the island; *Saxicola morio cypriaca* is also ubiquitous; *Scops cyprius* is abundant; *Parus aphrodite* (if it exists) grades into *Parus major*, which is extremely common. I think the local Chaffinch, Magpie, and perhaps the Raven will be the next birds which will be honoured with subspecific rank.

The Cyprus Natural History Society, through some of its members, has really done good work and has much stimulated local interest in all branches of Natural History:

notably Messrs. F. R. S. Baxendale, M.B.O.U.; W. J. Ansell, I.S.O.; G. Wilson; and T. Greenwood—in addition, of course, to Mr. Horsbrugh.

We have rescued many records from oblivion and made good some new and many doubtful ones.

Sibthorp recorded 81 species; Lilford 231; Madarász 219. During my five years' stay in the island we were able to bring the number up to nearly 300: having added the following, of which we obtained specimens of those marked with an asterisk:—

- | | |
|--|--|
| * <i>Turdus alpestris</i> Ch. Brehm. | * <i>Sturnus vulgaris balcanicus</i> |
| * <i>Saxicola hispanica xanthomelena</i> | Buturl. & Härms. |
| Hempr. & Ehr. | <i>Gypaëtus barbatus</i> (Linn.). |
| * <i>Cyanecula suecica</i> Linn. | <i>Chenalopez aegyptiacus</i> Macg. |
| * <i>Hypolais icterina</i> Vieill. | <i>Anser fabalis</i> (Lath.). |
| * <i>Sylvia hortensis crassirostris</i> | * <i>Anser albifrons</i> (Scop.). |
| Hartert. | <i>Branta bernicla</i> (Linn.). |
| * <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix erlangeri</i> | * <i>Cygnus musicus</i> Bechst. |
| Hartert. | * <i>Æthya rufina</i> (Pall.). |
| * <i>Phylloscopus bonellii orientalis</i> | * <i>Clungula glaucion</i> (Linn.). |
| Hartert. | * <i>Erisimatura leucocephala</i> (Scop.). |
| * <i>Luscinola melanopogon</i> (Temm.). | <i>Turtur senegalensis</i> (Linn.). |
| * <i>Ligurinus chloris mühleii</i> Parrot. | * <i>Eudromias morinellus</i> (Linn.). |
| * <i>Linota cannabina mediterranea</i> | * <i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i> Linn. |
| Tschusi. | * <i>Hydrochelidon hybrida</i> (Pall.). |
| * <i>Emberiza schæniclus canneti</i> | * <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> Linn. |
| Hartert. | * <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> E. L. Brehm. |

Amongst species which had hitherto been included in the list on unreliable or slender evidence we were able to make good the following:—

- | | |
|--|--|
| * <i>Turdus iliacus</i> Linn. | * <i>Falco punicus</i> Levaill. |
| * <i>Cettia cettii</i> (Marm.). | * <i>Columba œnas</i> Linn. |
| <i>Pycnonotus xanthopygus</i> (Hempr. | * <i>Otis tarda</i> Linn. |
| & Ehr.). | * <i>Squatarola helvetica</i> (Linn.). |
| * <i>Muscicapa collaris</i> Bechst. | * <i>Ægialitis geoffroyi</i> (Wagl.). |
| * <i>Coccothraustes vulgaris</i> Pall. | * <i>Totanus stagnatilis</i> Bechst. |
| * <i>Buteo vulgaris</i> Leach. | * <i>Totanus fuscus</i> (Linn.). |
| * <i>Astur palumbarius</i> (Linn.). | * <i>Sterna anglica</i> Mont. |
| * <i>Pernis apivorus</i> (Linn.). | |

We have also, for the first time, found breeding in the Island, or obtained eggs of, many species, such as :—

<i>Cinclus olympicus</i> Madarász. [Young.]	<i>Upupa epops</i> Linn. [Young.]
* <i>Daulias lusciniæ</i> Linn.	* <i>Aluco flammeus</i> (Linn.).
* <i>Sylvia cinerea</i> Lath.	* <i>Hieræetus fasciatus</i> (Vieill.).
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> (Linn.). [Young.]	* <i>Falco pumicus</i> Levaill.
<i>Cettia cettii</i> (Marm.). [Young.]	<i>Phalacrocorax graculus</i> (Linn.). [Young.]
* <i>Cisticola cursitans</i> (Franklin).	* <i>Spatula clypeata</i> (Linn.).
* <i>Parus cypriotes</i> Dresser.	* <i>Querquedula circea</i> (Linn.).
* <i>Certhia brachydactyla dorotheæ</i> Hartert.	* <i>Æthya fuligula</i> (Linn.).
* <i>Troglodytes cypriotis</i> Bate.	<i>Æthya nyroca</i> (Güld.). [Young.]
* <i>Anthus pratensis</i> (Linn.).	* <i>Columba palumbus</i> Linn.
* <i>Anthus campestris</i> (Linn.) ?	* <i>Turtur communis</i> Selby.
* <i>Muscicapa grisola</i> Linn.	<i>Pterocles arenarius</i> (Pall.). [Young.]
* <i>Fringilla cælebs</i> (Linn.).	* <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (Linn.).
* <i>Emberiza cæsia</i> Cretzsch.	* <i>Ædicnemus scolopax</i> (S. G. Gmel.).
* <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i> (Linn.).	* <i>Ægialitis cantiana</i> (Lath.).
* <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> (Leisl.).	* <i>Ægialitis cretonica</i> (Gmel.).
<i>Alauda arborea</i> Linn. [Young.]	* <i>Himantopus candidus</i> Bonnat.
* <i>Garrulus glasznéri</i> Madarász.	* <i>Larus cachinnans</i> Pall.
<i>Caprimulgus europæus</i> Linn. [Young.]	* <i>Sterna minuta</i> Linn.
	* <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (Linn.).
	* <i>Podiceps fluviatilis</i> (Tunstall).

Of those marked with an asterisk we obtained the eggs.

25 *. MONTICOLA SAXATILIS (Linn.).

The Rock-Thrush is evidently a regular migrant, as we have now obtained quite a number of specimens on both spring and autumn migrations. Indeed, from about August 27th to September 24th, 1911, it might be said to have been fairly common on Troödos, and a local sportsman shot six in one morning!

106. DAULIAS LUSCINIA Linn.

I had expected that the Nightingale would soon be proved to nest in the Cyprus mountains. I discovered eggs of this bird (in a small collection made by Mr. Glaszner) taken at

* The numbers prefixed to the names are those of Dresser's 'Manual of Palearctic Birds.'

Platres (about 3500 ft.) on June 13th, 1906, and in mid-June 1911 Mr. Ansell obtained a nest with five eggs in the hills near Ora (about 2300 ft.), both places being on the southern range.

107. *DAULIAS PHILOMELA* (Bechst.).

We obtained the Thrush-Nightingale in the spring of 1911, and specimens were kindly identified by Mr. M. J. Nicoll.

156. *HYPOLAIS ICTERINA* (Vieill.).

I am glad to be able to add the Icterine Warbler to the Cyprus list. Mr. Baxendale obtained a single specimen near Famagusta in the spring of 1911. The bird was identified by Mr. M. J. Nicoll.

567. *STURNUS VULGARIS* Linn.

568. *STURNUS PURPURASCENS* Gould.

Sturnus porphyronotus Sharpe.

569. *STURNUS POLTARATSKYI* Finsch.

Sturnus nobilior Hume.

Sturnus vulgaris balcanicus Buturlin & Härms.

Sturnus vulgaris græcus Tschusi & Reiser.

The Starlings which in some winters occur in enormous numbers in Cyprus have always been rather a puzzle. At different times those authorities who have examined Cypriote specimens have described them, or some of them, as belonging to the first five forms denominated above.

However, I sent a number of skins to Dr. Hartert in the summer of 1911, and he, after examining them with those which he had previously received from Glaszner, has come to the conclusion that the Cyprus birds are all referable to two forms, *Sturnus purpurascens* Gould and *Sturnus vulgaris balcanicus* Buturlin & Härms (Orn. Monatsb. 1909, p. 56).

He also considers that it is possible that *S. v. balcanicus* and a form *Sturnus vulgaris græcus* Tschusi & Reiser (Orn. Jahrb. 1905, p. 141) will be found to be identical.

I should add that amongst the specimens forwarded by me to Dr. Hartert were examples which had already been

labelled by other ornithologists as belonging to some of the other forms mentioned above.

618. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEUS* Linn.

I had thought it probable that the Nightjar nested in the island, and in 1911 there was no doubt that it did so on the Troödos Mountains. The birds were about the whole summer, and judging from their "churring" in the evening there were several pairs within a radius of a few miles of the Government Offices. We did not find the nest, but in late August met with a female and two young birds just able to fly.

Mr. Baxendale saw a specimen at Famagusta as late as November 24th, 1911.

669. *UPUPA EPOPS* Linn.

I found the Hoopoe nesting in June in the plains; this was in a crack in the rocks at the side of the main road between Nicosia and Larnaka. It had of course been known to breed regularly in the mountains.

721. *BUTEO VULGARIS* Leach.

The Common Buzzard seems to occur not very rarely in winter. Mr. Baxendale obtained two females—one on the 27th of January, 1912, at Famagusta, and the other on the 29th of January, 1912, at Salamis.

739. *HALIAËTUS ALBICILLA* (Linn.).

I have here to correct an error. The specimen recorded in 'The Ibis' for October, 1911, at p. 646, was taken to England by Mr. Baxendale, and on examination by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant turned out only to be a fine specimen of *Aquila heliaca* Savigny, the Imperial Eagle.

762. *FALCO CHERRUG* J. E. Gray.

Mr. Baxendale obtained a female Saker in the winter of 1911-12. Although recorded before on one or two occasions from the island, it is the first time any of us had obtained a proper specimen. It was kindly identified by Mr. W. L. Selater.

764. *FALCO PEREGRINUS* Tunstall.

Mr. Baxendale shot a fine male Peregrine near Famagusta. It was identified by Mr. Nicoll. In September of 1911 I found, at Paphos, Peregrines frequenting the old Turkish round-house which stands some way out at sea separated by a long-ruined wave-washed wall from the Fort (now used as a store): I have no doubt that this remote and isolated spot is also a breeding-place of this species.

765. *FALCO PUNICUS* Levaill.

Mr. Baxendale, on the 9th of January, 1912, shot, near Famagusta, a fine specimen of the Lesser Peregrine which was identified by Mr. Nicoll.

At the Klides Islands on April 19th, 1912, Mr. Baxendale discovered the nest with four nestlings, the largest of which was already shewing some signs of plumage and which were considerably bigger than the two nestlings found on the same island on May 11th, 1911. The eyrie was in a roomy fissure in a low cliff, not in the same spot as the previous year. Remains of Quail and a Mediterranean Herring-Gull (which were nesting in numbers on the island) were noticed in the vicinity of the nest.

768. *FALCO ÆSALON* Tunstall.

Mr. Baxendale obtained a female Merlin on March 17th, 1912, at Famagusta; Mr. Wilson another in January; and others were seen.

769. *FALCO SUBBUTEO* Linn.

Mr. Baxendale obtained the Hobby near Famagusta in the spring of 1912, and saw others.

776. *PHALACROCORAX CARBO* (Linn.).

We find the Cormorant to be a regular winter visitor, though not common. We have obtained more than one specimen.

781. *PHALACROCORAX GRACULUS* (Linn.).

Mr. Baxendale on the 19th of April, 1912, found the Shag breeding in small numbers on the Klides Islands, with young birds fully fledged. Mr. Baxendale noticed that the young birds were extremely pale underneath [the form, presumably,

described as *Phalacrocorax desmaresti* (Payraudeau), the Mediterranean Shag]. The species must breed very early in Cyprus.

794. ARDEA GARZETTA Linn.

Mr. Baxendale obtained the Little Egret on April 13th, 1912, at the Freshwater Lake, Famagusta. He also obtained another on the 15th at Salamis.

803. ARDETTA MINUTA (Linn.).

We obtained a very pretty female albinistic specimen of the Little Bittern in the spring of 1912.

812. PLATALEA LEUCORODIA Linn.

Half a dozen Spoonbills appeared at the Freshwater Lake in May, but Mr. Baxendale was unable to obtain a specimen, though he saw them more than once.

CHENALOPEX ÆGYPTIACUS (Linn.).

The Egyptian Goose occurred at the Freshwater Lake in January 1912. About a dozen were frequently noticed, but we did not succeed in obtaining a specimen. Seven also appeared on the water at Arona, near Nicosia, on January 21st: rather later than usual.

824. ANSER ALBIFRONS (Scop.).

The White-fronted Goose came over in fair numbers in December 1911. Mr. Giles, the Irrigation Superintendent, bagged two, and a native gunner shot seven in one night at Acheritou reservoir.

858. ÆTHYIA MARILA (Linn.).

The Scaup Duck has to be included in the Cyprus list. The Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain has kindly drawn attention to the fact that Lichtenstein, in his 'Verzeichniss der Doubletten des Zoolog. Museums der Königl. Universität zu Berlin' (1823), p. 85, mentions examples of the Scaup from Cyprus [Brit. Mus. Cat. Birds, xxvii. p. 355]. It would only be a winter visitor.

867? CEdEMIA FUSCA (Linn.)?

Scoters again turned up this year (1912), Mr. Baxendale seeing some on Koukليا Reservoir early in April. He did

not succeed in shooting one, so we are still in doubt as to which species does occur with us.

887. *COLUMBA ŒNAS* Linn.

The Stock-Dove has hitherto been included in the Cyprus list with very great doubt. In December 1911 quite a number appeared in different parts of the island, and we obtained several specimens.

911. *PHASIANUS COLCHICUS* Linn.

Our experiment in turning down Pheasants has not yet come to an end, so it is not possible to say what will be the result. Mr. T. Greenwood has borne the whole burden of the by no means inconsiderable expense of rearing and keeping the aviary birds. The parent birds were brought out in the spring of 1910. In February 1911 we turned out some of their progeny in the Stavro Valley high up in the Southern range: one cock was killed by a dog, and three birds were seen together in the autumn, but of this lot we have heard nothing further.

Mr. Greenwood turned out another lot near Agios Theodoros in the Larnaka District in one of the Game reserves in December of 1911. It was said by the villagers that some of these were so tame that they came and fed with their fowls: also that two hens were supposed to be nesting in the bush.

Mr. Greenwood, in February 1912, turned out a third lot in another reserve near the sea not far from Paphos, and some of these birds were seen in the foothills, having evidently followed the stream up. I have no further information of them.

952. *FRANCOLINUS VULGARIS* Steph.

This is rather a good opportunity for taking a survey of the Francolin in the island, as, after having been entirely protected by law for a period of five years, the prohibition automatically ceased from August 12th, 1911, till the end of the year, when another five years' protection came on under the new Game Bill.

I obtained full reports from all parts of the island as to the number seen and shot.

In the Paphos District I reckon about 100 brace were killed, mostly in the low-lying flats between the Kha Potami (river) and Ktima: this is now made a reserve and guarded.

In the Karpas there were a few still to be found and a dozen or so were obtained.

But in the Vallia scrub, at Limassol, and Morphou marshes, and in the Nalichs of Chrysochou and Poli, where twenty years ago the bird was common, there are none now. Indeed, the Paphos area mentioned above is the only place where the species has held its own, and this is due to the high hemp, thick cotton, and rough reeds and tangle with which much of this locality is covered.

In September 1912 I saw about twenty birds in this area when shooting: they are almost impossible to flush without a good dog and creep about unseen, even on lands where there is little cover. If they rise they make for the hemp, through which a dog can hardly penetrate.

There are a few left on the Kormakiti Cape in the north of the island, but the bird is evidently on the downward grade. It is to be hoped that the arrangements under the new Game Law will keep it from complete extinction.

1047. *HIMANTOPUS CANDIDUS* Bonnat.

In June of 1911 Mr. Ansell obtained a nest of four eggs at the Larnaka Lakes, and at the end of May 1912 Mr. Baxendale obtained eggs at the Freshwater Lake, Famagusta: so there is now no doubt that, given favourable conditions of water, the Black-winged Stilt nests in small numbers regularly in the island. This I had always thought to be the case.

1112. *HYDROCHELIDON HYBRIDA* (Pall.).

The Whiskered Tern is another addition to the Cyprus list. Mr. Baxendale obtained a number of specimens at the Freshwater Lake in May 1911. They were consorting with the Common and Black Terns. The Whiskered Tern may

well be a more or less regular visitor to the island on migration.

1121. *STERNA ANGLICA* Mont.

The Gull-billed Tern had only been recorded by Schrader in 1876-8 during his stay in the island. We obtained this bird for the first time this year (1912), Mr. Baxendale shooting a specimen on May 24th at Kouklia reservoir. It is probably a tolerably regular migrant, but apt to be overlooked.

1147. *LARUS FUSCUS* Linn.

Mr. Baxendale saw some parties of the Lesser Black-backed Gull on his visit to the Klides Islands in mid-April 1912, but did not find them breeding, although he took fresh eggs of *Larus cachinnans* Pall.

1168. *PUFFINUS YELKOUANUS* (Acerbi).

When leaving the island from Famagusta, the steamer being a few miles from the southern coast, I observed several Shearwaters close to the vessel and watched them with glasses for quite a long time. I have no doubt that they were the Eastern Manx Shearwater.

III.—*Note on a new Species of Pucras Pheasant found in the Province of Anhwei or Ngan-Hwei, China.* By the Rev. F. COURTOIS, S.J., Director of the Siccawei Museum near Shanghai.

(Plate III.)

THIS species, which was briefly described in the 'Bulletin' of the B. O. C. for October last as *Pucrasia joretiana*, is intermediate in some respects between *P. darwini* and *P. xanthospila*. From the first-named it presents the following differences:—

1. The feathers of the back of the shoulders and of the sides of the breast have two wide triangular black streaks converging to the tip, instead of four.